

GLOSSARY

Advanced High-Capacity Transit (AHCT):

A general term used to describe several types of high capacity, line-haul transit modes. AHCT is used to designate a future mode, such as LRT or BRT to serve the corridor prior to the selection of the specific mode.

Affected Transportation Network:

Refers to the roadway segments, or “links,” that are included in the analysis of emissions of mobile source air toxics. The affected transportation network includes the proposed project roadway segments and other links (roads) where traffic volumes would be expected to change by plus or minus five percent as a result of the proposed project.

Alternative:

General term that refers to possible approaches to meeting the need for and purpose of the project including corridor, transportation mode, and alignment. Typically refers to the No Build and the Build Alternatives.

Alternative Alignment:

Refers to a proposed routing of the Build Alternative.

Ambient Air Quality:

The state of quality of the air in the surrounding environment.

Aquatic Resources:

For the purpose of this study, aquatic resources are defined as both adjacent and isolated wetlands and waters.

Aquifer:

A water-bearing geologic unit of permeable rock, sand, or gravel that yields considerable quantities of water to springs and wells.

Attainment:

Status of the various pollutants described in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). A condition where a pollutant meets NAAQS.

Average Daily Traffic:

Average traffic volume in a 24-hour period on a particular roadway.

Build Alternative:

The Build Alternatives consist of a roadway constructed or reconstructed on a new existing location within the project area.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT):

Combines the user-friendly aspects of some rail service with the flexibility of a bus system. BRT can operate on streets, expressways, HOV lanes, or exclusive transitways.

Capacity Improvements:

The addition of travel lanes to accommodate more traffic volume.



1 **Carbon Monoxide (CO):**

2 A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that is formed as a product of the incomplete
3 combustion of carbon and is emitted directly by automobiles and trucks.

4 **Community Cohesion:**

5 The connections between and within communities which are essential for serving the
6 needs of the residents.

7 **Commuter Rail:**

8 A passenger rail service between a city center and its suburbs. It may use locomotives to
9 pull passenger cars, self-propelled passenger vehicles, or overhead-electric supplied
10 vehicles.

11 **Corridor:**

12 General location of a highway and its surrounding areas.

13 **Crash Rate:**

14 The number of crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

15 **Cultural Resources:**

16 Patterned physical remains of human activity distributed over the landscape through
17 time.

18 **Cumulative Effect/Impact:**

19 An impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action
20 when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless
21 of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions.

22 **Diamond Lanes:**

23 A class of HOV lanes that operate without the physical barriers, generally pavement
24 markings, to separate HOV traffic from general traffic.

25 **Environmental Justice:**

26 In accord with Executive Order 12898, the avoidance of actions that cause
27 disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations
28 with respect to human health and the environment.

29 **Express Lanes:**

30 Access-controlled through travel main lanes with grade-separated interchanges. For the
31 US 281 Corridor Project the express lanes describe all main lanes, which can be of any of
32 the three funding options analyzed in this EIS (non-toll, toll and managed (see definition
33 of Managed Lanes below)).

34 **Floodplain:**

35 The portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the channel, which is covered with
36 water when the river or stream overflows its banks at flood stage. It is also defined as
37 low land and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including, at a
38 minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given
39 year (the 100-year floodplain).

Floodway:

The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

Frontage Road Lanes:

Local partially access-controlled outer lanes that run parallel to higher speed access-controlled express lanes. Frontage road lanes provide access to adjacent properties and cross streets.

General Purpose Lanes:

Main lanes that are non-toll.

Groundwater:

Subsurface water that occurs beneath the water table in soils and geologic formations that are fully saturated.

Hazardous Air Pollutants:

HAPs refer to a range of compounds that include the precursors of ozone and are known or suspected by the EPA to have serious health or environmental impacts. MSATs are also considered HAPs.

Heterozygosity:

The state of having two different alleles of the same gene.

High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes:

HOT lanes charge low occupancy vehicles a toll, while high-occupancy vehicles are allowed to use the lanes free or at a discounted toll rate.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes:

Lanes used for carpools, vanpools, and buses and are usually separated from general-purpose lanes by concrete traffic barriers.

Historic Archeological Site:

Any subsurface cultural manifestation dated post-European

Impact/Effect:

In environment analyses, the words “impact” or “effect” are used to express the extent or severity of an environmental problem, e.g., the number of persons displaced by a new transportation facility. As indicated in CEQ 1500 (Section 1508.8), impacts and effects are considered to be synonymous. Impacts or effects may be ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health related, and they may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.

Indirect Effect/Impact:

An impact that is caused by an action, and is later in time or farther in distance but is still reasonably foreseeable.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS):

A broad range of activities and systems that use advanced technology to increase overall transportation system efficiency. ITS technologies are applied to infrastructure, vehicles, travelers, and the operators of transportation system components.



1 **Interstate Highways (IH)/Freeways:**

2 These are divided highways with two or more lanes designated for the exclusive use of
3 vehicular traffic. These roadways are intended to provide uninterrupted flow. There are
4 no signalized or stop-controlled at-grade intersections. Direct access from adjacent
5 properties is not permitted. Access is limited to ramp locations, and opposing directions
6 are separated by a raised barrier, a median, or a raised traffic island.

7 *Examples of Interstate Highways are IH 10 and IH 35. The term “freeway” in this document is*
8 *consistent with terminology in the Transportation Research Boards (TRB) Highway Capacity*
9 *Manual (2000). Any divided arterial with complete access control and unimpeded traffic flow is*
10 *designated a freeway, whether it is tolled or not.*

11 **Level of Service (LOS):**

12 Operating conditions within a stream of traffic describing safety, traffic interruptions,
13 speed, freedom to maneuver, comfort, and convenience. Six levels of service are defined,
14 designated A through F, with A representing the best conditions and F the worst.

15 **Light Rail Transit (LRT):**

16 Typically a “light” vehicle that may operate in an open ROW or within a street in mixed-
17 flow with traffic. Overhead wires supply power to the transit vehicle. Light rail can
18 carry medium-to-heavy passenger volumes.

19 **Low-Income Population:**

20 A population whose household income is below the Department of Health and Human
21 Services poverty guidelines.

22 **Major Arterials:**

23 Roadways that carry a large number of vehicles, possibly serving more regional traffic.

24 **Managed Lanes:**

25 According to the Alamo RMA toll policy, managed lanes are fixed fee tolled main lanes.
26 The toll would be charged to all vehicles except transit vehicles, car pools that are
27 registered with a tag in place, and other vehicles exempted by Texas State Law.

28 **Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs):**

29 A category of substances in the air that are known or suspected of causing cancer or
30 other health problems in humans, and for which a National Ambient Air Quality
31 standard (NAAQS) does not exist (i.e., excluding ozone, carbon monoxide, particulate
32 matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide).

33 **Mode (Transportation):**

34 Types of transportation uses that might include bus transit, HOV lanes, rail, bicycle, and
35 pedestrian.

36 **National Register:**

37 The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as maintained by the United States
38 Department of the Interior, pursuant to 16 USC § 470a. Properties listed in the Register
39 include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American
40 history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. It is the nation’s official list of
41 cultural resources worthy of preservation.

NEPA Document:

Any document or report prepared by or on behalf of a federal agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a project including, but not necessarily limited to, any Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact, Draft EIS, Final EIS, or Record of Decision, but not including any pre-decisional, deliberative, or privileged materials.

Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x):

Colorless, sweet-tasting gas emitted directly by automobiles and trucks.

Nonattainment:

An area that does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for criteria pollutants.

Notice of Intent (NOI):

An NOI is published in the Federal Register to notify the public that an agency is preparing an EIS.

Outer Lanes:

The partially access-controlled lanes that would run parallel to the proposed managed lanes for the Preferred Expressway Alternative between Stone Oak Parkway and Borgfeld Drive. The outer lanes would function as US 281 and would provide access to adjacent properties and cross streets.

Ozone:

Unstable blue-colored gas with a pungent odor formed principally in indirect reactions involving volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and sunlight. Ground-level ozone is an air pollutant with harmful effects on our respiratory system.

Palustrine Emergent Wetland:

Wetlands that are characterized by erect, herbaceous vegetation present for most of the growing season (i.e., marshes, wet meadows, fens, sloughs, or potholes).

Palustrine Forested Wetland:

Wetlands that are characterized by woody vegetation greater than 20 feet (6 meters) in height (i.e., swamps of bottomlands).

Palustrine Scrub-Shrub Wetland:

Wetlands that are characterized by woody vegetation less than 20 feet (6 meters) in height (i.e., shrub swamps, or wet thickets).

Preferred alternative:

The alternative that the proponent (FHWA/TxDOT/Alamo RMA) believes would fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities and is consistent with the need for and purpose of the project, while giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors, including public and agency comments received in response to the Draft EIS.

Prehistoric Archeological Site:

Any cultural manifestation predating European contact.

**1 Project:**

2 The whole of an action that has a potential for resulting in a physical change in the
3 environment, directly or ultimately, and that is any of the following:

4 (1) An activity directly undertaken by any public agency, including but not limited to
5 public works construction and related activities, clearing or grading of land
6 improvements to existing public structures, enactment and amendment of zoning
7 ordinances, and the adoption and amendment of local General Plans or elements thereof
8 pursuant to Government Code Sections 65100-62. An activity undertaken by a person,
9 which is supported in whole or in part through public agency contracts, grants,
10 subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.

11 (2) An activity involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or
12 other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

13 Project Area:

14 The area bounded in which alternatives have been located.

15 Resource Study Area (RSA):

16 A geographic area that was identified for each resource, which was evaluated during the
17 cumulative effects analysis. The health of the resource was evaluated within the entire
18 RSA.

19 Riparian:

20 Pertaining to anything connected with or immediately adjacent to the banks of a stream.

21 Section 106:

22 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 USC § 470(f). Pertains to
23 the protection and preservation of historic resources.

24 Section 4(f):

25 Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, 49 USC § 303(c). Pertains to
26 the protection of a Section 4(f) resource. Section 4(f) Resource: Any park, recreation area,
27 wildlife or waterfowl refuge or historic site that is protected under Section 4(f).

28 Transportation Demand Management (TDM):

29 Behavioral changes to commuters' travel habits that result in fewer vehicles during peak
30 hours. Examples would be carpooling/vanpooling, employee trip reduction programs,
31 compressed work weeks, telecommuting, flex-time, and employer incentives.

32 Transportation System Management (TSM):

33 Management to make the existing transportation system as efficient as possible.
34 Examples would be park and ride lots, ridesharing, HOV facilities, traffic signal
35 coordination, and intersection improvements.

36 Travel Demand:

37 The number of users desiring to travel the highway system based on the available
38 roadway network.

39 Upland Habitat:

40 Land that has sufficient dry conditions for hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and/or
41 wetland hydrology to be lacking. Any area that is not a wetland, deepwater aquatic
42 habitat, or other special aquatic site is considered upland habitat.

1 **Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT):**

2 The time (in hours) that users spend on the roadway system during a specific time
3 period.

4 **Viewshed:**

5 All land seen from one static point.

6 **Watershed:**

7 A specific geographic area drained by a major stream or river.

8 **Wetland (Isolated):**

9 Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency
10 and duration sufficient to support, and under normal conditions do support, a
11 prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions. Isolated
12 wetlands do not lie within the 100-year floodplain nor do they have a hydrologic
13 connection to navigable waters.

14 **Wetland (Jurisdictional):**

15 Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency
16 and duration sufficient to support, and under normal conditions do support, a
17 prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions. Adjacent
18 wetlands also lie within the 100-year floodplain and/or have a hydrologic connection to
19 navigable waters.



1

2

This page intentionally left blank.